MUSEUM ON MAIN STREET
A Museum Of County Life

IMPRESSIONS

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER • APRIL 2002

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Published Seven Times A Year From September-May.
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Annual dues are individual, $15; couple/family $25; student or senior (60+) $10; senior couple $19; business/association $50; patron $100.

Collections

Collections Chair Judy Chrisman had a long list of donations to report on at our last meeting. We've gotten clippings on Ann Arbor from **Elizabeth Needham Graham**; a toy trunk from **Edith Bookstein** found in the basement of her home, the Henry Simmons Frieze house on Washtenaw; World Word II ration tokens from **Mr. and Mrs. Donald Peterick;** a thermometer sold by Eberbach and Co. from **Phil Enns**; and more artifacts and documents relating to the Kellogg family from Kellogg descendant **David Oakley.**

But our prize acquisition in February was a wonderful group of dresses donated by **Janet Toohy Ferguson**, a descendant of **Jabez Sunderland,** who was minister of the Unitarian Church on Huron and State (now Hobbs & Black) from the 1880s-1920s. Janet, a retired social worker from Kalamazoo, who recently moved to Oberlin, Ohio, came personally last month to deliver these prize possessions. They include a black beaded gown worn by her grandmother **Gertrude Sunderland Safford**, a black silk dress worn by **Elizabeth Murray Safford** when her son, Homer, married Janet's grandmother at the Unitarian church inn 1898, the wedding dress of her mother, **Helen Sunderland Safford Toohy** (who was married by her grandfather Jabez Sunderland in 1926), and the dress her mother wore to the junior prom at University of Michigan *circa* 1920. These couldn't have come at a better time, and several of these items will be on display in our ***Weddings of Yore*** exhibit, along with photos of them being worn and personal letters as well. We have made a new friend in Janet, who learned about us through **Ken Scheffel** of the Bentley Library, which houses the Sunderland papers. We just meet really wonderful people through our mutual love of history!

Photo by Susan Wineberg
Judy Chrisman, Harriet Birch and Janet Ferguson with Sunderland-Safford family dress from the 1920s.

Photo by Susan Wineberg
Janet Ferguson poses with black beaded dress belonging to her grand-mother Gertrude Sunderland Safford.

Annual Meeting To Be Held May 15

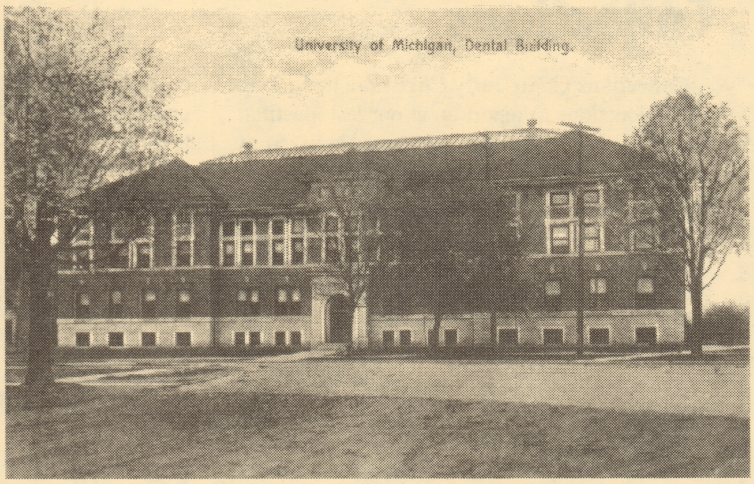
The **Annual Meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, May 15**, at 6 PM at the **Ypsilanti Ladies Literary Club.** Our speaker will be **Brett Lenart** of the **Ypsilanti Community Development Department** who will speak on the **Water Street Project.** This is our famous potluck supper, so bring your favorite dish to pass and join us in voting for our new officers and in honoring those retiring from the board. Leaving us this year are **Karen O'Neal, Karen Simpson, Pam Newhouse,** and **Carol Birch.**

We will also be electing officers for next year. **Richard Galant** and **Patricia Thompson** of the Nominating Committee have announced the following **slate**: **President, Pauline Walters; Vice President-** *position open*; **Recording Secretary, Judy Chrisman; Treasurer, Patty Creal;** ***Impressions*** **Editor, Susan Wineberg; Corresponding Secretary, Richard Galant. Ralph Beebe** and **Sherri Peller** are nominated for 3-year **Director** positions.

TAMMY L. SZATKOWSKI-REEVES • CURATOR, SINDECUSE MUSEUM

Dentistry At The University Of Michigan

On Sunday, March 23, over 40 people attended a talk by Tammy Szatkowski-Reeves on the history of dentistry, the UM Dental School, and a tour of the Sindecuse Museum of Dentistry. She has been Curator since 1999 and helped coordinate the museum renovation project and the installation of the new exhibits that re-opened in September 2000. Our speaker is a native of Detroit and a Ph.D. Candidate in Anthropology at the University of Pittsburgh, with a BA from UM.



The "New" UM Dental School ca. 1908. Post card from collection of Susan Wineberg.

*The original museum opened in 1993 with a donation from **Dr. Gordon Sindecuse** and was first in four cases in the lobby of the Kellogg Building. The recent expansion includes many more showcases and a covered atrium with examples of dental offices and equipment from the last 100 years. Included in the exhibits is a large collection of toothpaste containers on loan from **Ron and Maggie Berris** of West Bloomfield. Another part of the museum is the collection of **Jack Gottschalk** of Cincinnati that was purchased by the museum. The Museum's largest displays are of two historical operative rooms recreating the 19th century pre-electric period when candles provided light and the later rooms using electricity.*

*In the question and answer period we learned that the pediatric clinic contained a mural by **Francis Danovich** which unfortunately was only saved in pieces during the recent renovation. These will be restored and remounted in the future.*

"The Sindecuse Museum of Dentistry at the University of Michigan was founded in 1992 with a generous donation from **Dr. Gordon H. Sindecuse**, a 1921 graduate of the Dental School. Dr. Sindecuse was a Michigan dentist who practiced in Kalamazoo for over 30 years. As a practitioner trained in the late 1910s and early 1920s, Dr. Sindecuse and his peers did not have the advances in dental technologies and materials that are enjoyed by dentists today. Through his many years of practice he saw first hand the incredible strides made in the art and science of dentistry. Having lived through this dental evolution, Dr. Sindecuse recognized the need to preserve and document the history of dentistry. It was his vision that led to the creation of the museum. Over the past 10 years, we have continued to build the museum and its collection.

"The University of Michigan School of Dentistry has a long, rich history. Founded in 1875, the re-dedication of the expanded Sindecuse Museum in 2000 marked the 125th anniversary of the school. But before we can begin to explore the factors leading to the creation of the dental school in 1875, it is important to review the history of the profession so that we can understand the context in which the school was founded.

"As early as 1865 members of the Michigan State Dental Association petitioned the Regents of the University of Michigan for the creation of a dental college at the school. The request was repeatedly rejected on the grounds of "lack of funds." However, it is more likely that one of the stronger underlying reasons for the rejection of the plan to create a dental college at the University was actually due to the public perception of the field of dentistry at this time.

"Prior to 1900, dentistry did not enjoy the reputation that it now holds as a health science. Today, we understand that dentists are health practitioners and that good oral hygiene is an important factor in our health and well being. But it wasn't until 1910 that the true relationship between dental health and overall physical health was recognized by the general public. Before that time, the idea of preventative dentistry and oral care didn't really exist. Dentists were primarily involved in pulling teeth and creating dentures or bridges to improve cosmetic appearance.

"Dental historians agree that the earliest examples of true dental work exist in the archaeological record as early as 2600 B.C. Written records in Egypt describe dental treatments carried out by the pharaoh's dental practitionors. The earliest examples of dental bridges date to 500 B.C. and have been identified among the Etruscans, Romans, and Phoenicians. These bridges were created by using gold wire to bind artificial teeth to the existing adjacent teeth. By 400 B.C., medicine became very developed in Greece and dental disease was extensively treated by these early physicians.

"Another group of practitioners who emerged were the tooth-drawers. These individuals had no formal healthcare training, but served the needs of the local population by pulling badly decayed teeth. It was not until the 1700s that dentistry began to emerge as an independent health profession.

"The true origin of dentistry is marked by the 1728 publication of *Le Chirurgien Dentiste* (The Surgeon Dentist) by **Pierre Fauchard**. Fauchard was trained as a surgeon and served in the French navy. Through his work, Fauchard treated thousands of individuals suffering from scurvy, and developed a treatment for the severe dental illness associated with this disease. With his publication in 1728, Fauchard addressed the importance of maintaining good dental health and outlined procedures of dental treatment. This text was highly regarded by French and British surgeons, and Fauchard's techniques were quickly adopted. Fauchard's techniques were introduced to the Americas by French and British surgeons serving in the colonies. Fauchard's significant contribution to dentistry has earned him the title of Father of Modern Dentistry.

" In America among the general public at this time, dental illness was not considered a significant health issue, but more of an annoyance. A commonly held belief was that toothache and decay resulted from a toothworm that infected the roots and ate away the tooth material. Because toothache was such a common and persistent problem, various treatments and concoctions were developed to kill the worm, and thereby alleviate the pain. These remedies often

included drugs or medicinal plants that in some cases did provide at least temporary relief. But when the symptoms persisted and the pain became too severe, the sufferer would seek a tooth-drawer.

"Early accounts of dentistry are filled with numerous references to tooth-drawers. These individuals can be viewed as the precursor to modern dentists, although the comparison does not do justice to the scientifically based field of dentistry today. Tooth-drawers had no scientific or medical training, and usually practiced the trade of pulling teeth as a part-time task. Many of the earliest tooth-drawers were the local blacksmiths or barber-surgeons. Using primitive tools either modified or created for the task, they would extract the severely decayed tooth without the benefit of anesthetics or painkillers. It is these early examples of the somewhat barbaric practice of tooth extraction that have continued to plague dentistry throughout the ages. Because of the severe pain associated with tooth extraction and the possibility of serious injury, such as fracturing the jaw and hemorrhaging, tooth extraction was viewed as a last resort.

"The widespread problem of dental ailment along with the public fear of tooth extraction led to the emergence of countless quacks and con-artists who claimed to have perfected "painless" dentistry. These individuals traveled from town to town, often setting up a stage and performing a fraudulent extraction on an accomplice who, to the crowd's amazement, felt no pain when his tooth was pulled. These visits usually included a number of theatrical performances,

Photo by Susan Wineberg
Old toothbrush display in the Berris Collection at the Sindecuse Dental Museum.

which would attract a large crowd, increasing the pool of potential patients.

'Among the frauds, blacksmiths, and barber-surgeons, there was a growing group of individuals who aimed to be honest dental practitioners. Some early physicians adopted the dental techniques introduced into the Americas by British and French surgeons and began to practice dentistry. Apprentices who learned the trade from these early dentists then began practicing independently. Due to the lack of an established patient population, dentists usually practiced their trade on a part-time basis or as itinerant dentists, traveling from town to town to provide dental services. Unlike quack dentists, these new practitioners brought with them specialized sets of dental tools and equipment. Examples of this equipment include portable dental chairs, dental tool kits, dental rolls, and medicine kits.

"As the population continued to grow, practitioners living in larger cities began to open dental practices. Typically these practices began as a single room in the dentists' home which was adapted into dental office. Early dental furnishings (chair, cabinets, etc) were typically of a very ornate, heavy wood style in order to fit in with the décor of the home. Because of the lack of electricity, the dental chair was set in front of a large window to provide ample light for the dentist to see. As dentistry began to flourish into a more widely accepted profession, dental offices moved out of the home and into small upper floor offices. An example of one such office has been recreated at Crossroads Village, in Flint.

"By the early 1800s, there was no uniform level of training among dentists in the United States. The individuals practicing dentistry can be grouped into three general categories: 1) self-taught dentists, some of which were competent practitioners while many were quack dentists; 2) apprentices who learned as preceptorial students of practicing dentists; and 3) medically trained individuals who practiced dentistry. In 1825, there were approximately 100 practicing dentists in the United States

"In 1840 the first dental college in the Unites States was organized in Baltimore, Maryland. The **Baltimore College of Dental Surgery** was established as a private school and was not affiliated with a University. In conjunction with the creation of the dental college, the first dental journal, ***The American Journal of Dental Science,*** and the first professional dental organization, The American Society of Dental Surgeons, were also established. This tripartite structure laid a strong foundation for the introduction of a new dental profession.

"In 1845, the second dental school, the

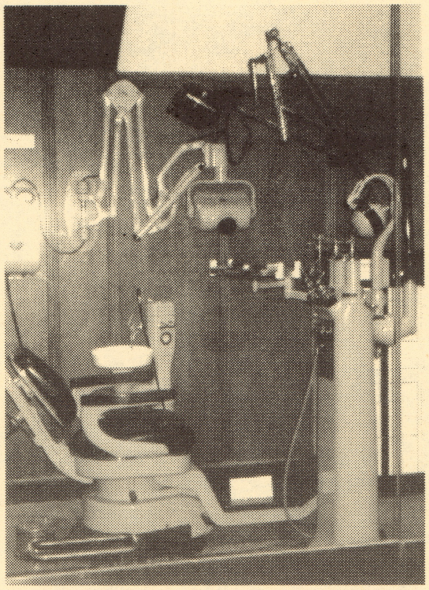


Photo by Susan Wineberg
1950s pink dental furniture in the Sindecuse Dental Museum.

Ohio College of Dental Surgery, was founded in Cincinnati, Ohio. This was also a preceptorial school and the only center for dental education in the West. Training at these early dental schools focused on teaching the techniques necessary for extracting teeth, filling cavities with gold foil, and also producing dentures. The courses were taught by practicing dentists and the students gained their training by working on paying patients from the local population.

"In 1865, the Michigan State Dental Association submitted their first request for the creation of a dental program at the University of Michigan. The petition was brought to the Board of Regents by **Jonathan Taft**, the current dean of the Ohio College of Dental Surgery. Because Taft was such a prominent name in dentistry, and the dean of the most prosperous dental school in the West, the Michigan State Dental Association felt that his presence before the Board of Regents would lend credence to the request. Unfortunately, the petition failed approval at that time. One possible reason for the refusal may have been that, given dentistry's current status as a trade devoted to the extraction and restoration of teeth, it was not viewed as a scholarly pursuit worthy of university training. There were, at this time, no dental colleges affiliated with universities. Dental schools differed strongly from medical schools in that they lacked a strong academic training in the sciences. While medicine was seen as a scholarly profession, dentistry was still viewed as a craft or trade.

"In 1866, the Michigan State Dental Association again petitioned the Board of Regents, and again their request was declined.

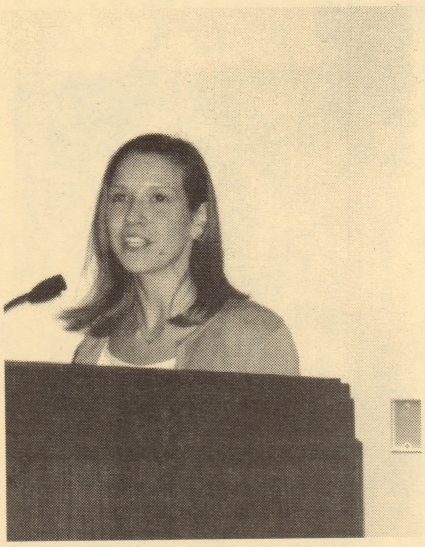


Photo by Susan Wineberg

Tammy Szatkowski-Reeves lectures on the history of the Sindecuse Museum and UM Dental School.

In 1867 a dental school was established at **Harvard University,** making it the first university-affiliated dental school in the country. This decision was a significant step in the history of dentistry in that it raised awareness and acceptance of the field of dentistry as a credible health profession. Harvard was considered the most prestigious university in the country at that time. By introducing dentistry into the university curriculum, they were in effect recognizing dentistry as an academic profession. This decision was very influential not only in changing public opinion, but also in leading to a greater acceptance of dental education among other universities.

"Following the successful introduction of dentistry at Harvard, the Michigan State Dental Association petitioned the University of Michigan Board of Regents for the creation of a dental program again in 1873. The Regents expressed interest in establishing the program, but lacked the necessary funds to do so. The process was repeated in 1874, and again lack of funds hindered the project.

"Finally, in 1875, the Michigan State Dental Association approached the Michigan State Legislature about the creation of the dental department. It was the State Legislature who controlled the funding for the University of Michigan. On May 1, 1875, Gov. John J. Bagley signed House Bill 518 authorizing funds for the establishment of a dental school in connection with the University of Michigan medical department. On May 12, 1875 the Board of Regents approved the measure, thereby establishing the Dental College at the University of Michigan.

"A budget of $3,000 was appropriated for the first year of the Dental College, and two professors were hired to teach and run the department. Dr. Jonathan Taft was hired as Dean and Professor of the Principles and Practice of Operative Dentistry. **Dr. John A. Watling,** a prominent local dentist from **Ypsilanti**, was appointed Professor of Clinical and Mechanical Dentistry. **Dr. Walter Hinkley Jackson** served as Demonstrator of Dentistry. The first dental class of 20 male students entered the program in October 1875. The program required two terms of six months each and a one-year apprenticeship with an established dentist. The degree Doctor of Dental Surgery, DDS, was conferred upon graduates.

"Along with the creation of a **Dental College**, House Bill 518 also called for the creation of a **Homeopathic College** at the University. During the first few years, these two colleges were housed together in one of the four original professors houses constructed on the campus. This building was located on the south side of North University Ave., approximately on the site of the Natural Science building. [Only one of the original professors houses still exists today. It's the President's house, which is located on S. University.] The first dental class of 9 students graduated in 1876.

"One of the most important features of the dental program from its inception was the emphasis placed on instruction in the medical sciences in conjunction with the medical program. With only three faculty members in the dental program, dental students attended general science courses jointly with students of the medical and homeopathic colleges. The College quickly became known for its excellence in technical and operative training in dentistry. By 1878, enrollment had increased to 62 students. Having outgrown their current quarters, the Dental College moved across campus to another of the old professor's houses, this one on the present location of the Clements library on South University. The Dental College was the sole occupant of this building. At the same time, the annual appropriation was increased from $3,000 to $4,500.

"In 1879 a dental college was organized at the University of Pennsylvania, bringing to three the number of University-affiliated dental schools in the country. Fifteen private dental colleges were also in existence at this time. The dichotomy between the dental curriculums at these two different types of institutions led to the development of a strong rivalry between university and non-university dental schools. This rivalry only intensified as new programs were founded at the University of California (1881), the University of Iowa (1882), and the University of Minnesota (1888). Fueling the dislike between these institutions was disapproval by the University dental programs of the commercial influence upon teaching in private dental schools. Because they were privately funded, these dental schools relied heavily on patient treatment as a primary source of income for the schools. And because the owners of the schools were out to make a profit, they were heavily influenced by the commercial gain they could receive from an increase in clinical work. This in turn meant that students spent very little time in lecture and lab work, and a preponderance of time in clinical practice. The university system, in which students gained a strong foundation in medicine and chemistry, supplemented by intense lab and clinical training, was seen as highly superior to the private school model.

"Due to the growing reputation of University dental schools, an increasing number of students were drawn to the programs. As the enrollment of the dental program at the University of Michigan continued to increase, so did the length of dental instruction. In 1884, the two required terms were extended to nine months each to coincide with the academic year. By 1889, the course of study was extended to three academic years. In 1890, the UM Dental College became the first dental school to provide graduate education. The degree Doctor of Dental Science (DDSc) could be attained with one additional year of study following the DDS. The first person to earn this degree was a woman, **Dr. Carrie Marsden Stewart** (1894).

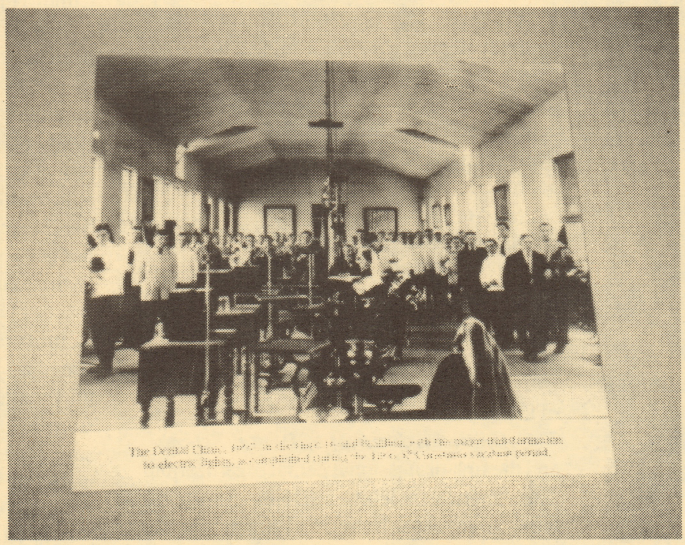


Photo by Susan Wineberg

The UM Dental Clinic in 1897 with its brand new electric lights.

"Another first for Michigan came in 1880 when the first female students graduated from the program. They were **Dr. Alma Fuellgraff** and **Dr. Evelyn Pierrepont.** Ten years later, **Dr. Ida Gray** became the **first African American woman** to earn at dental degree, and she did so here at the University of Michigan. The second African American dentist to earn a degree at the Michigan was **Dr. F.F. Scott,** who graduated in 1896.

"Despite expansion, by the 1890s the Dental College had once again outgrown its quarters. In 1891 the University Hospital moved to its new location on the current medical center campus and the Dental College occupied the former building on North University, which is currently the site of the Chemistry building. This building provided a wealth of new space for expanded laboratories and clinics. Dental chairs were placed in front of the large windows to provide adequate light for dental work. Natural light was supplemented by gas lights hung near the center of the room. In 1896, students began to complain about the serious problems in treating patients due to the lack of necessary lighting. The situation was especially difficult in the winter months, as the number of daylight hours were significantly reduced. Late in the year the Regents approved funds to install electric lights in the clinical lab during the winter break of 1896. This was the first significant improvement that electricity made to dentistry. Remember that before this time, dental tools were either hand or foot powered. Electricity led to an increase in dental innovations as well as increased efficiency in dental treatments.

Photo courtesy Bentley Library

First home of the UM Dental School in one of the four professors' houses facing North University around 1875.

"Also remember that most dental treatment was done without the benefit of anesthetic. In 1884, it was discovered that cocaine could be injected and used as a local anesthetic. Accounts from the 1890s describe cocaine injections being used for anesthesia here in the dental school. In 1906 Novocain was introduced and became the preferred method of anesthesia.

"By 1900, the rift between private and university dental schools continued to grow. In 1908, it culminated with the creation of the Dental Faculties Association of American Universities. By creating their own professional organization, faculties of the University Dental schools distanced themselves from the existing National Association of Dental Faculties, which included members from all dental schools. Their motivation was to transform dentistry into a publicly recognized health science. And to do so, they felt it necessary to publicly distance themselves from the private dental programs which lacked medically based training.

"As I mentioned earlier, in the early 1900s there was still no public recognition of the intricate relationship between dental and physical health. Problems of oral health were viewed as a painful local disease, but not as a general health problem. This perception changed in 1910 when the work of **William Hunter,** an English physician, was introduced to the American public. Hunter stressed the effects of oral pathology on general health and severely reprimanded dentistry for its lack of medical training in pathology.

"By 1916, increasing public opinion in the importance of dentistry as a health science led to the reorganization of private dental schools to include a foundation of medical training in their programs. Many of these schools were unable to match the programs of the university schools and began to close one by one.

"By this time, the Dental College at the University of Michigan had moved into a new building which was built in 1908 to tailor to the needs of the department. This building was located on the present site of the School of Dentistry. Following the huge changes taking place in public opinion, the University also found it necessary to make changes within our dental program. In 1916, **Dr. Marcus Ward** was appointed dean of the Dental College and faced with the task of reorganizing the program to transform dentistry into a true health service profession. The primary challenges were to initiate large programs of dental research, replace faculty with those ambitious to put Michigan at the cutting edge of dental science, intensify the scientific and medical training of our graduates, and bring the college up to par with the other graduate programs on campus.

"The increasing interest in dental education led to a survey by the Carnegie Foundation on the state of dental education in the United States and Canada. When the results were released in **1926**, they reported that the **dentistry department at Michigan** was the closest to the **ideal model** of a properly organized and funded dental program. It was regarded as the best in dental education in North America. In 1927 the program was officially renamed the School of Dentistry. Since that time, the program at Michigan has continued to grow and prosper, leading to a number of innovations in dental technology and science, and always maintaining a strong reputation as one of the most prestigious dental programs in the country.

"As changes were instituted in the school, the dental clinic and laboratories were refitted to provide modern equipment for dental instruction. The first remodeling occurred in 1923. The school's strong commitment to postgraduate education led to the creation of the **W.K. Kellogg Foundation Institute**. Built in 1939, the Kellogg Foundation Institute was the first building in the world devoted exclusively to graduate and postgraduate dental education. Some features of the new building were a full denture clinic, an orthodontic clinic, and a pediatric clinic featuring a mural painted by artist Francis Danovich of the Michigan Arts and Crafts.

"In 1949 the operative clinic of the main dental building was again refitted with new dental equipment. By the late 1960s, there was a need for the complete revamping of the dental school. The original building of 1908 was torn down and the modern Dental School was built in its place. A major renovation of the Kellogg building began in 1998 and was completed in 2000. It was at this time that the Sindecuse Museum was expanded, becoming a more major part of the School of Dentistry. The museum has prospered in its new space, and our collection continues to grow as we strive to preserve the history of the school and the evolution of the dental profession."

Around The Town

The **Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County** lecture for this month will be on **Sunday, April 28**, by **David Johnson**, State Archivist from the Michigan State Archives. He will be lecturing on "Genealogical Information at the State of Michigan Archives." The class will be on "Scanning for Genealogists"—the who, what, where, when, why and how of scanning photographs and documents for genealogical use, plus tips on getting the best results from printing scanned images. Lectures are held at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, 5205 Elliot Drive and begin at 1:30. Use Parking Lot P. If you like to plan ahead, **Bobbie Snow** of the UM Law Library will be speaking on **Sunday, May 19**, and the **Annual Picnic** is scheduled for **June 23**. A **local cemetery reading** will be held sometime in the summer. Their website is **www.hvcn.org/info/gswc/.**

Cobblestone Farm Museum will be holding its spring event from 1-5 PM on **Sunday, April 21.** This year Tillers International will be bringing a pair of oxen (Marco and Polo) to till the kitchen garden. This will be a sight to see! They are also opening their wash/bathroom to discuss the difficulties of doing laundry in the 19th century. In addition, some of their reenactors will have an encampment on the property.

Your editor, **Susan Wineberg**, has recently been appointed to the **Ann Arbor Historic District Commission.** She last served on this group in 1988 so it has been a while.

The **Kempf House Museum** at 312 S. Division St. in Ann Arbor will be mounting an exhibit on "***Graduations: Pomp and Circumstance of Ann Arbor Graduates from the 1800s to 2002.***" The exhibit will display yearbooks, photographs, diplomas and traditions of commencement, with special emphasis on **Elsa Kempf's** graduation celebration 100 years ago. The exhibit will be up from **April 28-June 9** on Sundays and Wednesdays from 1-4 PM or by appointment. Group and special tours are welcome. Call **734-994-4898.** It will be open for regular tours on the four Sundays in **April, May 5, 12,** and **19,** and **June 2** and **9**. Admission is $1.00 and children under 12 are admitted free. The Kempf House is an 1853 Greek Revival House Museum owned by the City of Ann Arbor.

Around The County

Yet another study committee is meeting in Washtenaw County. This one is for the **Old Zion Parsonage Historic District** in **Freedom Township.** Members of the Study Committee are **Jasper Pennington, Jack** and **Angelika Lewis** (the property owners), **Marnie Paulus,** staff of the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission, **Grace Shackman, Susan Wiley** and **Norman Wenk**. The Old Zion Parsonage is a two-story frame home in a vernacular Gothic Revival style on S. Fletcher Road in Section 4. It was built in 1890 by the Old Zion Lutheran Church to house their minister Heinrich Lemster and has a traditional two-door front façade so common among German buildings in the US.

The **Dexter Museum** will re-open **Saturday, May 4.** Their hours of operation are **Friday** and **Saturday,** 1-3 PM. They will be holding a **DuMouchelle Antiques Appraisal Clinic** on **Saturday, May 11**. For an appointment call **734-426-2473** (Liz Kleinschmidt). Only items that can be carried into the museum will be appraised. The Museum is located at 3443 Inverness in Dexter and unfortunately is NOT handicap-accessible.

Saline's Rentschler Farm Museum will re-open **Saturday, May 11**. Many activities are planned to celebrate Spring and the re-opening of the museum. Sponsored by the Saline Area Historical Society, Springtime on the Farm will feature traditional crafts, a miniature merry-go-round, a seed planting exhibit, a newly completed children's room in the farmhouse, baby chicks, tractor restoration and much more! Rentschler Farm is at 1265 E. Michigan Avenue. Park at the Visteon Plant or the Sauk Trail Shopping Center. Call **734-769-2219** or **734-4429-9621** for more details.

The **Washtenaw Land Trust's** *Notes from the Land* reports on their successes this past year. They have opened an office at the NEW Center on N. Main St. in Ann Arbor; developed a website **[www.washtenawlandtrust.org.]**; hired a development director and sponsored announcements on local radio stations to reach more in the county. They are supporting the **Gordon Hall** project to purchase and restore the unique Dexter homestead from 1843 and its 70 acres of rich farmland that is one of Washtenaw County's most unique architectural and historical legacies. They also have a limited quantity of **Steve Small's Preserving Family Lands** books, which deal with tax strategies and other methods for the landowner to protect land and keep it intact for the next generation. The books are $5.00 each and you can obtain a copy by calling **734-302-LAND.**

Donation A Nice Way To Remember Friends

We recently received a generous donation of $200 from **Margaret Underwood** as a memorial to her dear friend **Evelyn Taylor** and her husband **Dr. Robert Taylor.** We'd like to encourage more of our members to **honor your friends** by a donation to the society and the museum.

There are other ways you can help us as well. Members can remember the WCHS in their wills when they make their **estate plans.** This is an excellent way to provide financial support to the Society. If you have a **paid life insurance policy** that no longer serves its original purpose to provide for a spouse or children, you can assign the policy as a gift to the Society and receive a tax deduction in the amount of the cash-value of the policy. The Society receives the benefit of the policy upon the donor's death. Confer with your tax consultant before making any decisions, however.

You can also donate **property** to WCHS and gain a significant tax advantage. The land you own can even be donated now while reserving the right to use it for the remainder of your lifetime. And **matching gifts programs** allow employers to match your donations to qualified charitable institutions. Contact your employer to see if WCHS qualifies. There are lots of ways you can help the WCHS grow and prosper!

Volunteer Opportunities

Time on your hands? Come and docent an exhibit, sew a table cover for our doll house, repair items in our furniture collections, help plan future exhibits and transport items to the museum, or just do odd jobs around the house. If you are willing, we can find something for you to do! Call Pauline at **734-662-9092.**

Beyond Washtenaw

Many groups cut back on their activities in the summer but others take their place! Home and Garden Tours abound in May and one that is always exciting is that of **Indian Village in Detroit**. This year the tour will be held **Saturday, June 8** from 10 AM-5 PM. For the price of $12 ($15 on day of the tour) you can view eight wonderful homes and gardens, some of which have never been on the tour before. Group rates of $10 are given for parties of 25 or more. Indian Village, near Belle Isle, is the second oldest historic district in Michigan and is full of homes built by Detroit's pre-auto industry elite. Many were designed by **Albert Kahn** and **Louis Kamper.** For more information call **313-922-0911.**

Brighton is glowing about the **Friends of the Lyons School** and its archives center which is almost near completion. The school, at 11455 Buno Road, and the 116-year old building was re-dedicated last year. You can learn more about their activities at **http://community.Mlive.com/CC/BAHS.** You can also call President and Editor **Marieanna Bair** at **810-229-6402.**

The **Lenawee County Historical Society** is offering a new publication in its Seeds of Time series. Entitled ***The Lenawee Homefront During WWI: A Singular Kind of Innocence,*** and written by **Jan Richardi,** is available for $2.50 plus $1.00 for mailing. Also available are two other pamphlets by Dr. Charles Lindquist: ***The "Heavenly" Mrs. Haviland*** and ***The Adrian LION.*** A complete set of 10 pamphlets can be purchased for $22.50. Send a check to them at PO Box 511, Adrian, MI 49221. The society has sold over 700 pamphlets since 1999 and was applauded by the Bentley Library as "a valuable addition to our collections relating to the history of Lenawee County."

The 22nd Annual Michigan Preservation Conference on *Historic Preservation and Smart Growth*, hosted by the **Michigan Historic Preservation Network**, will be held **April 25** and **26** in Traverse City, Michigan. The keynote speaker is **John Frece**, Communication Director the Maryland's Office of Smart Growth. Call MHPN at **248-625-8181** for more details.

Cranbrook announced its Heritage Lecture Series which will be on five Sundays at 2 PM. in April and May. On **April 14** the lecture will be on the Scripps and Booth Families and on **April 21** you can learn about the history of Cranbrook. On **April 28** learn about Cranbrook's outdoor sculptures and on **May 5** learn about Saarinen House and Eliel Saarinen's Architecture in Finland and the US. For more information call Steve Hoffman at **248-645-3149**. The lecture fee is $5.00.

We are back in touch with **Steve Stier** and the **Michigan Barn Preservation Network** and learned we just missed telling you about their 7th Barn Conference in March. But we can alert you to a barn conference in Ohio, which will be held in Cleveland **October 8-13**. For conference information call **800-944-6847** or visit their website at **www.nationaltrust.org.** The latest issue of their newsletter highlighted the restoration of a 1912 barn moved to the **Frederik Meijer Gardens.** On **Saturday, April 27** from 9 AM-3: 30 PM, they will be sponsoring a **Barn Mortar Restoration Workshop** with the **Hartland Area Historical Society** in Hartland, Livingston County. Registration is required for this free event. Call **810-632-9248** for information and directions. You will learn how to identify types of mortar in historical barns, mix lime-based mortar for repair, and perform basic repairs on and tuck point fieldstone foundations. Bring your lunch, drinks will be provided!

Congratulations to **Green Oak Township** in **Livingston County**. The township was organized 167 years ago in 1835 when Michigan was still a territory. Brighton and Green Oak were combined until 1837, the year Michigan became a state. The Green Oak Township Historical Society meets on the third Sunday in March, May, and October at the New Township Hall, 10001 Silver Lake Rd at Fieldcrest. For years they maintained their records and artifacts at the **Gage House** at 6440 Kensington Road, south of Grand River. However, the DNR did not renew their lease and they vacated the farm in August of 2000. The house and barns still stand, vacant, overlooking the Huron River and the beautiful surrounding farmland that is now Island Lake State Recreation Area. The society's items are now stored in a very large barn but they are looking for a home. They have requested space at the **1856 Old Town Hall** but have not received any answer yet. Can you help? Call President **Gerry Macks** at **248-486-3578.**

The Plymouth Historical Society will soon be publishing a book telling the History of Plymouth using text and photos. They have signed an agreement with **Arcadia Publishers,** producers of the *Images of America* series that also published Grace Shackman's book on Ann Arbor. The first volume to be on Plymouth from 1820-1920 is expected to be out in May. The project leader is **Liz Kerstens** and if you have anything you can offer for the book, contact her at the Plymouth Historical Museum on Wednesdays or Thursdays from 1-4. The museum is located at 155 S. Main St., in downtown Plymouth and their phone is **734-455-8940.**

The **Historical Society of Michigan** will be leading a bus tour on **Saturday, May 11,** to historic sites in Ohio that played a role in the War of 1812 and in the history of Michigan. The deadline is April 10 but perhaps they will extend it. Call **517-324-1828**. Also new is the opening of their new education center at the **Tuomy House** in Ann Arbor. Starting in May, they will host educational activities and provide space for workshops, small lectures and opportunities for non-profits to use their space. Three workshops are scheduled at the Tuomy House: **June 8** will be on *Caring for Valuable Books* by Jay Platt; **July 25** will be on *Teaching Michigan History in the Classroom* by James Cameron; **October 12** will be on *Preserving Historic Photos* by Mark Coir.

Life Member Dies

Another Life Member, **Elizabeth Earhart Kennedy,** died in Montecito California on February 24, 2002. She was 92. The daughter of Harry Boyd and Carrie Beal Earhart, Mrs. Kennedy married James A. Kennedy in 1932 and was deeply involved with the Red Cross, Girl Scouting and Delta Gamma Sorority. For over 60 years she was a corporate member of the Earhart Foundation of Ann Arbor and in the 1950s she created the Elizabeth E. Kennedy Fund to carry out her numerous philanthropies. Her most recent donation was for the renovation of Hill Auditorium on the UM Campus. She is survived by two sons, David and Patrick, both of Ann Arbor and three daughters, Joan, Ann and Susan.

Former Board Member Wins Award

Former Board member **Karen Simpson** received a **Tapestry Award** from the **U-M Office of Student Activities & Leadership (SAL)** in recognition of her work on behalf of diversity at the U-M over the years, as well as her heritage interpretive work in the community. She was presented this award at a ceremony at Mendelssohn Theater on Monday April 8. Congratulations Karen!

Your Museum

Lots of exciting things are happening at our museum. Our newest exhibit, ***Weddings of Yore,*** will open **Sunday, April 14.** We will be displaying wedding dresses from our collections and some very recently acquired ones from Janet Ferguson as well (see related story). Some of them will surprise you, since not all wedding dresses were white in the 19th century! We'll also have other wedding artifacts, including a bride's trunk, on display and plan to serve a bride's cake and groom's cake at the open house on **Sunday, April 28.** If you are interested in docenting for this exhibit, please call **Pauline Walters** at **734-662-9092.**

We are readying the basement with the help of **David Ferguson** (Pauline's son) in anticipation of receiving our new movable storage system. **Judy Chrisman** and our volunteer **Andrew** have worked weekends to move everything to the west wing of the basement and caulk and insulate the area before the shelving arrives.

The **Doris Anna Bach Bequest Committee** continues to meet to listen to proposals from various local investment companies in order to decide how best to invest our inheritance. We will keep you posted!

At the suggestion of **President Walters**, a group of people representing the WCHS, the Kempf House, Cobblestone Farm, the Genealogical Society, and the Parker Mill, met March 5th to discuss the formation of a **Historical Organization Consortium.** This Consortium would centralize information on all activities of the representative groups and work to recruit volunteers as well. They will be meeting again April 9 to discuss issuing a joint calendar of events promoting historical sites in Washtenaw County.

Our gardener **Pat Thompson,** along with **Patty Creal,** went out to member **Margaret Underwood's** home on Glazier and returned with many historic snowdrops and winter aconite for our garden. She also reported that **Grafaktri**, a local graphics design firm owned by WAP John, has donated three signs for our current and upcoming exhibits. We thank them for their generosity and encourage others to do likewise! Board Member **Sue Kosky** is doing an inventory of the Museum Shop and has ideas for items to sell. Anyone else interested?

Like to plan ahead? We have two more exhibits on tap! The history of our building and the families who lived in it will be the topic of our next exhibit. We'll be telling the story of the **Kelloggs, Ruthruffs, Greiners** and **Marzs** so if you have any items you'd like to loan or donate, let us know. From mid-October through November we will be exhibiting about the **Masons in Washtenaw County**. Organized by **Karl Grube,** Secretary of the AAMTB, this promises to be an exciting exhibit.

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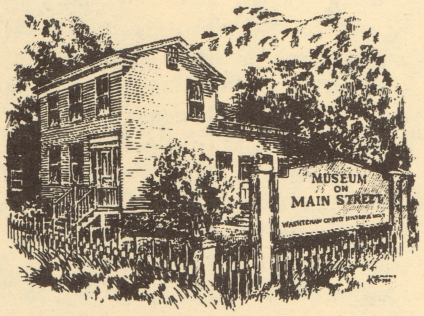

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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